

Chapter 1 : Inti Raymi | Cultures and Customs

Encuentros: Dances of the Inti Raymi in Cotacachi, Ecuador Michelle Wibbelsman Latin American Music Review, Volume 26, Number 2, Fall/Winter , pp.

Share on Facebook In Ecuador, towns and villages across the country regularly celebrate local festivals and saint days nearly every week of the year. But, Inti Raymi is the biggest festival in the country in June. It is celebrated with rituals, street dancing and even bullfights. The name means Sun Festival and reflects the importance of the sun in the lives of the Incas and, to this day, in farming and the harvest. Inti Raymi is a time when indigenous people throughout the Andes renew their connections to Mother Earth and make offerings to the sun and earth. This renewal and purification is demonstrated in the ritual bathing that marks the start of Inti Raymi.

Inti Raymi Celebrations The biggest and most riotous celebrations occur in the towns of Otavalo, Cotacachi and surrounding villages north of Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Here, Inti Raymi coincides with the important religious festivals of St. Paul, and the festival of St. As in many Ecuadorian towns, religious and ancient festivals are merged to create a week of colorful street dances, music, eating and drinking. Events in Otavalo and its surrounding area include competitions, cock fights, bullfights, dance competitions and agricultural exhibits. The main festivities fall on the weekend days between June 21 and

Inti Raymi Dances Dances may appear to observers as chaotic, but they usually have a story or ritual as their basis. The Aya Uma is a mythological character wearing a mask with two faces that represents night and day. Considered the spirit of the mountain coming down to the villages to participate in the celebrations, Inti Raymi dances include a person dressed as Aya Uma. Dancers go around in circles, representing the two equinoxes, stamping their feet to invite Mother Earth to participate.

Taking of the Square At the ritual Taking of the Square event, crowds of local men dressed in traditional costumes crowd the main square and carry out a dramatic and enthusiastic symbolic battle. At the end of the ritual, the entire community fills the square for more music and dancing through the night, and visitors are welcome to join in the celebrations. Here, the Inti Raymi celebration combines Inca rituals with the traditions of the local Canari culture. Ceremonies take place within the ruins of Ingapirca with local dances and offerings to Mother Earth by the Taita Roque Ochoa, a character dressed in white to represent peace.

Chapter 2 : Project MUSE - Encuentros: Dances of the Inti Raymi in Cotacachi, Ecuador

Encuentros: Dances of the Inti Raymi in Cotacachi, Ecuador Michelle Wibbelsman (bio) A human wall, fifteen men across in dozens of rows deep, advances in a slow trot toward the main square of Cotacachi, La Plaza de la Matriz.

The different communities of Cuzco express their identity and culture through their dance, and this has a very long history here, from well before the Spanish came. On seeing a dance you can recognize through the movements and the costumes where the dance is from and what the regions tradition and customs are like. All year round fiestas are celebrated in Cuzco, in the city and in its provinces. Many organizations participate in the fiestas as do many people. The city of Cuzco is particularly recognized for its dance and its large celebrations. Up in the Air The most well known and popular dancesâ€”those which are found in every fiestaâ€” are the following: It is said to represent the male goats at rut. They are said to mate with a different woman every night of Corpus. They claim that on those nights their sins are not counted. In it are portrayed the constant battles with the inhabitants of the jungle lowlands as well as trade with them. The dancers wear large headdresses as hats of helmets worn on the head made from the colorful plumes of macaws along with a veil of fine metal mesh. Their choreography is very impressive since the men will show their valor in fighting as part of their customs. They would come to Cuzco to exchange produce. This is a prestigious dance whose costume is characterized by a rectangular head covering that is covered with sequins and a white, woven mask. It shows the energy of each warrior as he prepares for battle. It is made of different colors and also has very colorful decorations made from special embroidery with lots of detail. They thought that when going to war they should go well dressed, in order to separate themselves from the enemy and show their superiority. The movements of this dance are sudden and strong. In almost all the choreographies the dancers demonstrate battle. Dancer Waiting to Dance The city of Cuzco celebrates large fiestas year round. It has a calendar of feasts where all the feasts and festivals are laid out and planned by date along with all the activities carried out through the year. There are also the various anniversaries of important institutions. The largest festivities take place in June, including the central day when Cuzco celebrates its anniversary. During this month many competitions are organized to honor this key month. As they go they show their different choreographies, and the greetings they have prepared, whose end is to openly show their customs and joys to the public and the judges. The public gathers in large numbers to watch the dancers perform thronging their way and the outline of the plaza, as if the spectators were cloth waiting to receive the new and vibrant thread of the dancers. It thrills the public to see these dances performed well. Mask in Place Other dances are presented in competitions between high schools, universities, markets, and other institutions and organizations. Practically the entire city of Cuzco will dance through the streets at some time. This performance begins in Sacsayhuaman, above the city, and then comes into the Main Square, before returning to Sacsayhuaman. There rituals to thank the Sun God are carried out. For this day locals and tourists come out to see the staging of the Inti Raymi pageant, which portrays representative dances of each of the four quarters of the Inca Empire. Among these are the Huaylas, the Cara Chunchu, dances of the Jungle.

Chapter 3 : Inti Raymi: An explosion of color, music,dance and tradition (First Day) | monoauallador.

The Concept of Encuentros Folklorist Henri Glassie wrote that "true communities are built not of dewy affection or ideological purity but of engagement" (,). This eloquent statement captures the concept of encuentros (encounters), which appears as a recurring theme in this article and is explicitly performed by Otavaleños in the dances of the Inti Raymi or San Juan festivals.

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Dances of the Inti Raymi in Cotacachi, Ecuador Michelle Wibbelsman bio A human wall, fifteen men across in dozens of rows deep, advances in a slow trot toward the main square of Cotacachi, La Plaza de la Matriz. They are the San Juan dancers of the upper- and lower-moiety coalitions of local indigenous communities who have come to compete with one another in the toma de la plaza the taking of the square during the summer Inti Raymi festivities. The thundering of the synchronized dance step as boots pound against the pavement and the collective whistling announce the strength and aggression of the sanjuanés, as the dancers are known in honor of Saint John the Baptist, whose feast day is celebrated on this occasion, 24 June. The dancers wear goatskin chaps zamarros ; tall, broad-rimmed, black, stiff cardboard hats; boots or shoes instead of alpargatas 2 ; and sunglasses. Many of them are completely outfitted in camouflage. As they trot to the music of the twin flutes, they wave leather whips aciales and chant in unison, "jari, jari, jarikuna. These precise, albeit imaginary, lines establish boundaries among groups, imposing a temporary festival order in the space of the plaza. An inclusive view of the square reveals a spatial arrangement wherein the sanjuanés dominate the street around the central park as they move in a counter-clockwise direction around the plaza. Food vendors and game operators set up their stands in the central park. An indigenous public crowds the steps of the church. Local mestizo onlookers view the dancing from the safe distance of second floor windows and balconies. Mestizo men make toasts over rounds of trago cane alcohol on the sidewalks that line the plaza, but they stay near a tavern or house for a quick getaway should there be trouble. Military and police [End Page] stand at every corner. Indigenous women, mostly spouses of the men dancing, carry bundles kepis and children on their backs, and walk between the San Juan groups on the street as a buffer for the fights. Children scurry near their mothers. Click for larger view Figure 1. Sanjuanés entering the Plaza de la Matriz. Rather than assuming a connection between ritual, identity, and social formations, I take as my point of departure the premise that communities perform themselves into being on a regular basis Barz , 6. Consequently, I focus on the practices and processes that sustain an interrelational production and transformation of communities. My anthropological investigation reveals concurrent processes of identity formation in festival performances in the town of Cotacachi 6 and explores the semiotic complexity and multivocality of the rituals through an analysis of festival dances and costumes. In this article I limit my interpretation to three levels of identity-making through performance: As indigenous and mestizo identities are defined in juxtaposition to one another, the clash of cultures in this encounter is expressed in the aesthetics of the dance as a sort of counter-conquest and in the bellicose themes of festival costumes. The pattern of this dance emphasizes the mutual dependence between individuals and You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 4 : What Festival Is Celebrated in June in Ecuador? | Getaway USA

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Temple of the Qorikancha El Sol Avenue. Hawqaypata Square Main Square of Cusco. Chukipampa Explanada " Sacsayhuaman. On 24 June every year the winter solstice is celebrated, in other words the beginning of the Andean New Year: The "Inti Raymi" or "Fiesta del Sol" was the biggest, most important, spectacular and magnificent feast carried out at the time of the Tahuantinsuyo Empire, which based its religion on the cult of the Sun festival. The subjects of the Inca continued celebrating the feast hidden from the Spanish authorities, and a mongrel named Garcilaso de la Vega collected in his famous Royal Commentaries, descriptions of this unique and incomparable party. Another part of the celebration of Inti Raymi was at the ceremony of the new fire. This because the cooks are experts not only in cooking but also in keeping the fire from the ashes. The Inti Raymi is an ancient Inca religious celebration, as we all know the Incas worshiped their god: Formerly the Inti Raymi lasted about 15 days; People made sacrifices and presented dances to worship the sun god. The last Inti Raymi held with the presence of Emperor Inca was in the year , a year before the Spanish conquest, but it was the Spanish invasion in Actually, the Inti Raymi is a play, cusqueniens and millions of people from all over the world meet at this event, which is one of the most attractive, traditional and cultural manifestations. This Inca celebration makes each of us, feel through our veins Inca blood running; and revalue our past. In this month, Cusco receives more tourists than the rest of the year. There is an opportunity to meet people from different places and to exchange experiences and anecdotes with them. It is the day that feels colder in Cusco, the weather in the morning is sunny. It is freezing season, so it is always recommended to bring something warm for when night falls. Nivardo Carrillo is the name of the person who will be the Inca. All these actors and actresses were born Cusco, they will be dressed in Inca costumes mostly made of sheep wool, alpaca, etc. As it as it was our ancestor. The Inca talks with the sun, also in Quechua, as in the past. Finally, it is worth mentioning that Law No. Make your reservation here: This day was always sunny, so you cannot forget sunscreen to apply yourself, and not just the face, it is best to all parts of your body that will be discovered as the arms, neck, ears, etc. Also, keep a handy sun blocker, it is recommended to every 45 minutes. In addition to this, you should wear sunglasses and a hat or hat; is not news that ultraviolet rays attack us more and more. A good pair of walking shoes, the Inti Raymi lasts at least 7 hours, so you must go prepared. The statistics indicate that climate will be a sunny day. Try to wear yourself with something that makes you feel neither cold nor hot. Your comfort comes first 4.

Chapter 5 : Inti Raymi “ Cusco “ Blog “ Pirwa Hostels

The Inti Raymi is an ancient Inca religious celebration, as we all know the Incas worshiped their god: the God Inti or Sun in its translation into Spanish. Formerly the Inti Raymi lasted about 15 days; People made sacrifices and presented dances to worship the sun god.

Inti Raymi is the product of this revival. More than actors, organized by university, professional, or neighborhood affiliation, prepare and practice for months beforehand, designing elaborate and ornate costumes, refining dance sequences, and coordinating the most minor details of the procession, all in order to give full homage to the Inca past. For a firsthand account of the procession as it advances from Santo Domingo Church to Sacsayhuaman, read this guide to Inti Raymi. It was here that the Inca civilization worshipped Inti, the Sun God, and this grandest of palaces was decked out accordingly. Women actors, representing the Virgins of the Sun, carry offerings to the Sun. Photo by Britt Fracolli The chronicles of the conquest say that, when the Spanish first entered Cusco, Qorikancha was among the most amazing constructions that they had ever encountered in the Americas. The walls of the temple were plated in gold and the gardens were littered with life-size reproductions of Andean flora and fauna including golden-fleeced llamas, tiny insects, ears of corn, and the most delicate flowers, all crafted in gold and silver. Aside from 4, attending priests, the most important residents of Qorikancha were the deceased Incas, mummified and wrapped in fine clothes and seated upon thrones of gold to rest until eternity. Of course, none of these wonders withstood the plundering thirst of conquering Spaniards and all that remains are a series of Inca walls that were spared when construction started for the Spanish church that now towers over the original site. This is where the Inti Raymi procession starts every June 24, and people show up hours in advance to secure the best view. The entire ceremony is conducted in the Quechua language. Travelers can arrange to go in the company of a guide who can provide background information for a fuller understanding of the rituals as they are being carried out. At every instance, the pride of local residents is palpable. Travel Tips for Inti Raymi Book in advance everything you can: June is the high season for Cusco travel and you can expect accommodations, train tickets to Machu Picchu and treks to fill up early and fast. Some Cusco hotels charge higher rates for Inti Raymi; speak to your travel advisor for the latest information. Travelers also have the option of buying tickets to sit in the viewing stands at Sacsayhuaman. Ask your travel advisor about ticket availability. Locals show up hours in advance at Santo Domingo Church, the Plaza de Armas, and Sacsayhuaman to secure an optimal place for viewing the procession. The streets get crowded in Cusco for Inti Raymi. Guard your electronics, leave nothing in your pockets, and if you have a small backpack we recommend you keep a watchful eye on it. Weather and what to wear: Peru for Less specializes in customized travel packages to Peru and other destinations in South America. Contact us for a customized itinerary. This blog was originally featured in , but updated regularly to keep content updated.

Chapter 6 : Inti Raymi - Festival of the Sun Tickets

Created by Inca Pachacutec, Inti Raymi was a tribute to the venerated Sun God Inti. Nowadays, the festival draws thousands of local and international visitors to the ancient Inca capital - Cusco - to celebrate one of the most important events of the calendar year.

Unfortunately, for many of the indigenous populations of the Americas, the future was bleak. Once thriving empires would be crippled by foreign diseases and conquerors, and the native way of life was greatly altered by missionaries whose good intentions often led them to condemn preexisting traditions. One of the most notable victims of the influx of European influence throughout Central and South America was the Inca. A wealthy and powerful civilization, the Inca Empire quickly became the target of conquistadors seeking New-World riches. As the Inca eventually fell under foreign rule, they were forced to abandon much of their traditional culture. This was especially true of those practices related to their polytheistic religion, which worshiped the sun as a supreme power. The practice of some of the most important Inca festivals in honor of the sun god who was referred to as Inti were entirely stopped by the middle of the sixteenth century. One such festival, however, has undergone a relatively recent revival. Performers in traditional Inca clothing carry out the historic festival for growing numbers of tourists, exhibiting the most important aspects of what was originally a nine day celebration over a much shorter period of time. Held annually on the winter solstice, the recreation of Inti Raymi brings historical accounts of the most important Inca festival to life, offering a window into the distant past. It was a time of relaxation and jubilation for an industrious people, allowing them to enjoy the fruits of their labors. The festival was also an important religious time, when animals were sacrificed to gain the favor of the sun god and ensure a successful harvest. Early records have preserved these tales, allowing re-enactors to accurately convey Inca history and culture. Boulders were cut to size and then hauled by hundreds of men with lengths of rope to the hilltop where the fortress was to be constructed. Workers then precisely carved the stones to fit into place. The structure provides an appropriate backdrop to modern renditions of Inti Raymi, juxtaposing the cultural and physical remnants of the Inca Empire. However, lesser-known versions of the festival may be more closely linked to the original. In difficult-to-reach areas of the Andes mountains, Inca traditions were often preserved. Even when missionaries reached the most remote communities and converted them, many held to their roots. Inti Raymi and other native celebrations were often tied to religious holidays, but the customs were largely unaltered and remain so today. You can follow any comments to this entry through the RSS 2. You can leave a comment , or trackback from your own site.

Chapter 7 : Inti Raymi in Cusco | Peru For Less

Inti Raymi is an all-day event, with at least five hours of performance at Sacsayhuamán. Entry to the fortress is free and rental chairs are available from booths around the main square. There are also food and drink vendors on the grounds.

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Chapter 8 : Category:Bandolin - Wikimedia Commons

The Inti Raymi ("Festival of the Sun") was a religious ceremony of the Inca Empire in honor of the god Inti. Since , an historical reconstruction of the Inti Raymi has been taking place at the.

Chapter 9 : Inti Raymi - Sun Festival, Feast of the Incas

The main day for Cuzco is the 24th of June when it celebrates Inti Raymi, which is the Feast of the Sun. This performance begins in Sacsayhuaman, above the city, and then comes into the Main Square, before returning to Sacsayhuaman.